

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 IO-03

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 MBFR-02 ACDA-10

NEA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /075 W

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R 091610Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1120

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USLOSACLANT

COMICEDEFOR

S E C R E T USNATO 3754

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/81

TAGS: MARR, IC, NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. REYKJAVIK 905

B. STATE 19524

1. MISSION AGREES THAT OUR EFFORTS TO RETAIN IDF SHOULD PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION OF "WHAT'S IN IT FOR ICELAND". WE EXPECT THAT NATO STUDY CURRENTLY UNDERWAY WILL PROVIDE SUCH ANSWERS BUT WASHINGTON AND EMB REYKJAVIK SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE STUDY WILL NECESSARILY BE LARGELY CONCERNED WITH THE ROLE OF ICELAND AND THE IDF IN THE MAINTENANCE OF DETERRENCE AND IN THE DEFENSE OF THE NATO AREA.

2. THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS ALREADY ASKED SACLANC FOR HIS OPINION AS TO THE ACCURACY OF EARLIER NATO DOCUMENTS ON THE SUBJECT, AND FOR INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THERE ARE ANY NEW FACTORS, SUCH AS EQUIPMENT, THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE IMPLICATIONS OF LOSS OF THE FACILITY. THESE EARLIER NATO
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DOCUMENTS ARE (1) MC-63(FINAL). 17 JUL 56, THE STRATEGIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES FROM ICELAND (UPDATED BY US JCS ON 7 JUL 71); (2) CMC-93-71, 26 JUL 71, LETTER FROM GEN STEINHOFF TO SECRETARY GENERAL BROSIO ENCLOS-

ING A NOTE ON THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF ICELAND TO NATO,
AND (3) MILSTAM (P AND P)-115-71, 12 AUG 71, NOTE ON ICELAND.

3. THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF RECEIVED SACLAN'T'S
INPUT LAST WEEK. MC ACTION IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR
MID-SEPTEMBER.

4. WE EXPECT THAT THE NATO STUDY, WHEN IT IS PRESENTED TO
THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL, WILL COME THROUGH AS A FRESH
LOOK EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT DRAW HEAVILY ON THE EARLIER PAPERS.
IT WILL DO A THOROUGH JOB OF DEVELOPING THE THREAT AND IN
THAT SENSE IT SHOULD PARTIALLY MEET THE CRITERIA IN PARA 2,
REF A. WHETHER OR NOT THE ICELANDERS WILL PERCEIVE THE
THREAT AS A DANGER IN AN ERA OF DETENTE NEGOTIATIONS IS
ANOTHER MATTER. IN ADDITION, IT WILL SPEAK TO THE STRATEGIC
IMPORTANCE OF ICELAND AND POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE PRES-
ENT FACILITIES, POINTING OUT THAT THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE
FOR THE PRESENCE OF SOME NATO FORCES AND SUGGESTING POSSI-
BILITY OF A REDUCTION TO AN UNDEFINED MINIMUM FIGURE.
FINALLY, IT WILL CONCLUDE WITH A STRONG STATEMENT OUTLINING
THE IMPACT OF LOSS OF THE FACILITIES ON NATO DETERRENCE AND
DEFENSE.

5. IF A PAPER DEALING EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
IDF TO ICELAND IS DESIRED, WE SUGGEST THAT THE US MIGHT
UNDERTAKE SUCH AN EFFORT, DESIGNED TO SUPPLEMENT THE NATO
STUDY. WE NOTE (REF B) THAT AGUSTSSON WAS BRIEFED IN
WASHINGTON LAST JANUARY ALONG LINES SUGGESTED BY AMB IRVING.
PERHAPS THAT BRIEFING COULD FORM BASIS OF A US PAPER,
EXPANDED TO INCLUDE ALL FACETS OF THE PROBLEM TO INCLUDE,
IF DESIRED, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ADVANTAGES TO ICELAND OF
HAVING A DEFENSE FORCE THERE. WE ALSO SUGGEST INCLUDING
BENEFITS TO ICELAND OF NATO-MEMBERSHIP--SUCH AS TOMASSON'S
RECENT VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT, ICELAND'S REPRESENTATION
IN VARIOUS NATO BODIES--WHICH WE REGARD AS A PLUS FOR ICELAND
IN SPITE OF THE VIEWS OF SOME ICELANDERS THAT NATO HAS LET
THEM DOWN OVER THE FISHING DISPUTE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO03754
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS 12/31/81
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730868/abqcebnw.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: A. REYKJAVIK 905 B. STATE 19524
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <21-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: MARR, IC, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO REYKJAVIK
USLOSACLANT
COMICEDEFOR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005